GNOSALL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1907.

The following table gives statistics of the birth and death rates for the year, and compares them with the averages for the ten years immediately preceding:—

	1907.	Average of 10 preceding yrs.
Deaths per 1,000 of population	10.2	12.5
Births per 1,000 of population	21.0	24.7
Deaths from zymotic diseases per 1,000 of population	0.0	0.10
Deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 births registered	64	105

It is gratifying to be able to report that both the general death rate and the infantile death rate are considerably below the average, and that they are both the lowest on record for the last 10 years. The deaths of infants under one year only total 7 in all, and I do not think that any one of these could be considered to be due to a preventable cause. Of the total deaths, slightly over 50 per cent. were those of persons of 65 or upwards, about half of these again having reached, or in most cases considerably passed the age of 80 years.

Deaths from zymotic disease were again entirely absent from the list.

The birth rate is below the average, in fact, it is the lowest on record for many years.

In Table No. IV. accompanying this report will be found the number of deaths in each parish, and also the causes of death.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—These have again been conspicuous by their absence, only three cases of scarlet fever having been notified during the twelve months. In one of these, the origin of infection was somewhat obscure, the others were infected while attending school in a neighbouring district, where scarlet fever has been prevalent for some time. I am pleased to be able to say that in each case the disease was confined to the person originally attacked, and that there was no spread of infection from any of these cases.

MUMPS.—There has again this year been a considerable epidemic of this disease, which spread slowly over the district, and led to the closing on March 20th, of Church Eaton School for three weeks, and later on of Moreton, on June 3rd, for a period of two weeks, in both instances the principal reason for closing being that so many of the children were absent that the work of the schools was completely disorganised. In my opinion, this should be the sole reason for closing a school during an epidemic of mumps, as it has little, if any, effect in preventing the spreading of the disease, as the incubation period is so long that by the time the first few cases declare themselves there are probably already many other cases infected.

MEASLES.—A considerable epidemic declared itself in Adbaston, in November, and here again so many of the children were affected that it was considered advisable to close the schools on the 25th, and not to re-open till after the Christmas holidays.

The following were the schools closed during the year by the managers, with my consent:—

School	Disease.	Time of Closing.
Church Eaton	Mumps	March
Moreton	Mumps	June
Adbaston	Measles	November

The following is an account of the sanitary work done in the district during the year 1907, as furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, who informs me, however, that it is not complete, as during his unavoidable absence from illness in the summer a complete record was not kept by his substitute:—

	Number of Inspections made	—Defects found.	Abatement Notices: Informal by Inspector	—Formal by Authority.	Nuisances abated after: Notice by Inspector	—Notice by Authority.
Dwelling-houses & Schools.						
Foul conditions	3	1	1	0	1	0
Structural defects	2	1	1	0	1	0
Overcrowding	3	0	0	0	0	0
Unfit for habitation ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lodging houses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dairies and Milkshops, Cowsheds	43	8	8	0	8	0
Bakehouses	1	0	0	0	0	0
Slaughter-houses	10	3	3	1	2	1
Canal boats	42	5	3	2	3	2
Ashpits and Privies	18	6	6	1	5	1
Deposits of refuse and manure	17	3	3	1	2	1
House Drainage. Defective traps, no disconnection, other faults	95	33	33	4	29	4
Water supply	13	7	7	0	7	0
Pigsties	12	2	1	0	1	0
Animals improperly kept	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offensive trades	5	1	0	1	0	1
Other nuisances	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	254	70	66	10	39	10

No seizures of unwholesome food were made under the Food and Drugs Act, so no proceedings were necessary.

The three houses infected by scarlet fever, as mentioned, were duly disinfected.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE.—The schemes for Gnosall are still in the preliminary stages.

THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.—This district contains no factories, so no report is required under this Act, none of the industries mentioned in the list received from the Secretary of State being carried on here. The bakehouses are in a satisfactory condition.

I herewith include the usual tables of sickness and mortality during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
R. S. STEELE, M.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

February 15th, 1908.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1907, AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

1897: Population estimated to middle of the year, 5,008; Births: Number 138, Rate 27.6; Total Deaths Registered in the Distrist: Under 1 year of Age: Number 5, Rate per 1,000 Births registered 36; At all Ages: Number 79, Rate 15.8. 1898: Population, 5,010; Births: Number 111, Rate 22.0; Deaths under 1 year of Age: Number 10, Rate 90; At all Ages: Number 55; Rate 10.9. 1899: Population, 5,014; Births: Number 121, Rate 14.1; Deaths under 1 year of Age: Number 15, Rate 125; Deaths at all Ages: Number 69, Rate 13.4. 1900: Population, 5,120; Births: Number 109, Rate 21.5; Deaths under 1 year of Age: Number 13, Rate 110; Deaths at all Ages: Number 60, Rate 11.9. 1901: Population, 4,707; Births: Number 116, Rate 24.6; Deaths under 1 year of Age: Number 16, Rate 137; Deaths at all Ages: Number 57, Rate 12.1. 1902: Population, 4,700; Births: Number 129, Rate 27.4; Deaths under 1 year of Age: Number 15, Rate 116; Deaths at all Ages: Number 75; Rate 15.9. 1903: Population, 4,700; Births: Number 127, Rate 27.2; Deaths under 1 year of Age: Number 13, Rate 102; Deaths at all Ages: Number 58, Rate 12.3. 1904: Population, 4,700; Births: Number 130, Rate 27.6; Deaths under 1 year of Age: Number 15, Rate 115; Deaths at all Ages: Number 54, Rate 11.4. 1905: Population, 4,700; Births: Number 117, Rate 24.8; Deaths under 1 year of Age: Number 12. Rate 102; Deaths at all Ages: Number 73. Rate 15.5. 1906: Population, 4,700; Births: Number 115, Rate 24.4; Deaths under 1 year of Age: Number 14, Rate 121; Deaths at all Ages: Number 54; Rate 11.4. Averages for Years 1897—1906: Population, 4,825; Births: Number 121, Rate 24.7; Deaths under 1 year of Age: Number 12. Rate 105; Deaths at all Ages: Number 63, Rate 12.5. 1907: Population, 4,700; Births: Number 109, Rate 21.0; Deaths under 1 year of Age: Number 7, Rate 64; Deaths at all Ages: Number 48, Rate 10.2.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 26,083. Total population at all ages, 4,707. Number of inhabited houses, 1,015. Average number of persons per house, 4.1.

VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1907 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Gnosall.—1907: Population estimated to middle of the year, 2,050; Births registered, 51; Deaths at all Ages, 22. Deaths under One year, 3. Average from previous ten years: Population estimated to middle of each year, 2,060; Births registered, 50; Deaths at all Ages, 28: Deaths under One year, 5.

Adbaston.—1907: Population estimated to middle of the year, 530; Births registered, 8; Deaths at all Ages, 7; Deaths under 1 year, 2. Average for previous ten years: Population estimated to middle of each year, 543; Births registered, 17; Deaths at all Ages, 8. Deaths under 1 year, 2.

High Offley —1907: Population estimated to middle of the year, 620, Births registered, 25; Deaths at all Ages, 9; Deaths under 1 year, 2. Average for previus ten years: Population estimated to middle of each year, 677; Births registered, 17; Deaths at all Ages, 8; Deaths under 1 year, 2.

Norbury. 1907: Population estimated to middle of the year, 383; Births registered, 5; Deaths at all Ages, 2; Deaths under 1 year, 1. Average for previous ten years: Population estimated to middle of each year, 379; Births registered, 9; Deaths at all Ages, 6; Deaths under 1 year, 1.

Forton.—1907: Population estimated to middle of the year, 520; Births registered, 8; Deaths at all Ages, 4; Deaths under 1 year, 0. Average for previous ten years: Population estimated to middle of each year, 537; Births registered, 10; Deaths at all Ages, 3; Deaths under 1 year, 1.

Church Eaton.—1907: Population estimated to middle of the year, 597; Births registered, 12; Deaths at all Ages, 4; Deaths under 1 year, 0. Average for ten previous years: Population estimated to middle of each year, 601; Births registered, 14; Deaths at all Ages, 6; Deaths under 1 year, 1.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1907.—Scarlet fever: At all ages, 3; 5 to 15, 3. Total Cases in each Locality: Church Eaton: Scarlet fever, 3.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING YEAR 1907.—At all ages; Phthisis (pulmonary) tuberculosis), 2; other tubercular diseases, 1; cancer (malignant disease), 3; bronchitis, 4; pneumonia, 1; alcoholism (cirrhosis of liver), 1; premature birth, 3; diseases and accidents of parturition, 1; heart diseases, 7; accidents, 3; suicides, 1; all other causes, 21; total, 48.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1907.—Total Deaths under One Year:—Enteritis, 1; premature birth, 3; congenital defects, 1; other causes, 1; total, 7. Births in the year: Legitimate, 106; illegitimate, 3. Deaths in the year: Legitimate infants, 7. Deaths from all causes at all ages, 48. Population, estimated to middle of 1907, 4,707.